



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian announced today the indictment of a Lowville man for selling false identification documents and assaulting a federal agent in the course of his duties.

MOISES VELAZQUEZ-JACOBO, 36, of Lowville, New York, a citizen and national of Mexico, was charged today by a federal grand jury in Syracuse, New York, in a five count Indictment. Counts 1 and 2 of the Indictment charge VELAZQUEZ -JACOBO, on two separate dates in January, 2012, with knowingly transferring false documents, to wit: false social security cards and false alien registration cards (also known as "green cards"), in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1028 (a)(2). Count 3 charges VELAZQUEZ- JACOBO with the knowing possession, on March 7, 2012, of a false social security card and a false alien registration card with the intent that they be used to defraud the United States, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1028 (a)(4). Count 4 charges VELAZQUEZ-JACOBO with trafficking in false identification documents between in or about April 2011 until March 7, 2012. If convicted on Counts 1 through 4, VELAZQUEZ- JACOBO could face up to 15 years imprisonment, to be followed by at least 3 years of supervised release, and a fine of up to \$250,000 on each count.

Count 5 of the Indictment charges VELAZQUEZ-JACOBO with forcibly assaulting, resisting, and impeding a Special Agent of the United States Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) while that agent was engaged in the performance of his official duties, and, while in the commission of the acts described above, did inflict bodily injury upon the agent, in violation of Title 18, United

States Code, Section 111 (b) and 111(a). This charge stems from an incident that took place during VELAZQUEZ -JACOBO's arrest in which he bit an arresting agent's finger, piercing the fingernail and causing bodily injury. If convicted on Count 5, VELAZQUEZ -JACOBO faces a possible term of imprisonment of up to 20 years, a term of supervised release of up to 3 years, and a fine of up to \$250,000.

The VELAZQUEZ-JACOBO case was investigated by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI).

"This case highlights our commitment to protecting both the integrity of our immigration system and our national security," said Nick DiNicola, assistant special agent in charge of HSI in Albany, N.Y. "Immigration benefit fraud schemes undermine the integrity of our nation's legal immigration system, pose a security vulnerability and potentially rob deserving immigrants of benefits they rightfully deserve. HSI will not allow the exploitation of our proud legal immigration tradition for profit and will move aggressively against those who engage in such criminal conduct."

An indictment is merely an accusation, and VELAZQUEZ -JACOBO is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Carl G. Eurenus, who can be reached at 448-0672.